

ABSTRACT

It is an object to provide an optical member capable of enhancing efficiency of utilization of light in a liquid crystal display apparatus by laminating a reflective polarizer with an optical layer having another optical function, and it is another object to provide a liquid crystal display apparatus with increased efficiency of utilization of light from a backlight, using the laminated optical member with the reflective polarizer. The present invention provides a reflective polarizer comprising birefringent bodies including polygonal prisms or circular cylinders a shape of a cross section of which perpendicular to a long axis direction is polygonal or substantially circular, which has an aspect ratio of not less than 2, and which has a refractive index difference of not less than 0.05 between a refractive index in the long axis direction and a refractive index in a short axis direction. The birefringent bodies are dispersedly arranged substantially in an identical direction in a support medium, and where the shape of the cross section perpendicular to the long axis direction of the birefringent bodies is substantially circular, any one of the birefringent bodies, when viewed on the cross section, is in contact on a side face of a circular cylinder with each of at least two other birefringent bodies in contact on a side face of a circular cylinder with each other.